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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

Chou En-lai has answered Sir John Kotelawala's denunciation of Communist imperialism with a conciliatory speech. He said Communist China had not come to Bandung to discuss ideologies but to reach agreements. In contrast to Chou's conciliatory attitude, Radio Peiping has angrily charged that the anti-Communist nations at the conference "are parroting their American masters."

Nehru and Nu also made pleas for harmony in the interest of saving the conference from disintegration. Among other things, Nehru stated that in a "technical sense" there was no colonialism in Eastern Europe. He also said that if the matter of subversion were to be considered, recent developments in Guatemala might be appropriately discussed.


The political committee has engaged in lengthy discussions concerning colonialism. Chou reportedly opposed consideration of the topic "colonialism--old and new" because it was not specifically on the agenda. Pro-Western representatives were in favor. In the end, a 10-nation subcommittee was appointed to draft an appropriate resolution. India, Indonesia, Communist China and seven pro-Western nations were included. One proposal, which India reportedly supports, subscribes to the principle of self-determination of peoples, condemns all types of colonialism and calls on all conference participants to refrain from the practice of colonialism in any form.

For his part, Chou reportedly has proposed that all colonial powers give up their colonies in Asia and Africa--specifically including Hong Kong--within the next 15 years. This is the first report of a deadline imposed by the Communists for a British withdrawal from Hong Kong.

The political committee has also been active in other matters. It greatly diluted one Indian resolution condemning racialism in South Africa by condemning racial discrimination wherever it occurred and called upon conference members to

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eradicate it from within their own borders. Similarly, the Indonesian proposal regarding West Irian has been rewritten to include an expression of hope that the UN would take a hand in settling the dispute. An Arab proposal calling for a French withdrawal from North Africa encountered no opposition.

In the economic committee Pakistan offered to assist "underdeveloped" countries. It also recommended that participating countries make use of UN technical assistance and called for an expansion of capital aid under the Colombo Plan.

In other developments, Pham Van Dong issued a long statement to the conference. This statement is much more of a Communist diatribe than anything Chou has said. It professed the purity of the Viet Minh cause and the peaceful nature of Communism. It also claimed that the "imperialists" were attempting to sabotage the Geneva agreement which was supported by "all the peoples" of Asia and Africa.

Soviet propaganda continues to play up the conference. Premier Khrushchev, speaking at Warsaw on 19 April, credited the peoples of Asia and Africa with making a large contribution to world peace. In the first press commentary since the opening of the conference, Izvestia editorialized on the historic changes in the East which made the meeting possible. The article also deliberately pointed out that the Kremlin's "concern" for the independence of these peoples was given tangible expression in the "important document" of 16 April--the Soviet Foreign Ministry statement on security in the Near and Middle East. Moscow's May Day slogans also included for the first time a greeting to the peoples of Asia and Africa.

Satellite media is also giving extensive coverage to the conference, featuring Chou En-lai's statements, stressing attacks on colonialism, and repeatedly pointing to "sabotage maneuvers" being carried out by United States' "representatives" at the conference.

Chou and Indonesian Foreign Minister Sunario have signed the agreement which is supposed to solve the problem of dual nationality of Overseas Chinese in Indonesia.

Sir John Kotelawala has stated that he will not be "hushed up" on his plan to solve the Formosa problem and indicated he would demand to be heard on the subject at the next plenary session.

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